

### Weapon Carrying

Weapon carrying is associated with the most serious injuries resulting from violence. Carrying a weapon significantly increases the risk that a violent argument will result in death, disability, or other serious injury (1). Although weapon carrying does not always lead to injury, it is strongly associated with exposure to intimidation and threats and perceptions of fear and vulnerability (2).

■ In 1999, 17 percent of high school students reported carrying a gun or other weapon in the past 30 days. Healthy People 2010 objectives call for a reduction to less than 15 percent in the prevalence of weapon carrying by adolescents in grades 9–12 (3).

■ Male students were significantly more likely than female students to carry a gun or other weapon. Among both male and female students, the percent of students who reported carrying a weapon did not differ significantly between 9th and 12th grade.

■ Among male students, non-Hispanic black students were more likely to carry a gun than non-Hispanic white and Hispanic students. Among female students, non-Hispanic black and Hispanic students were more likely to carry guns and other weapons than non-Hispanic white students.

■ The proportion of students who reported carrying a weapon on school property was smaller. In 1999, 7 percent of all students brought a weapon to school; 11 percent of male students carried a weapon on school property compared with 3 percent of female students (4). A Healthy People 2010 critical adolescent objective calls for a reduction of weapon carrying by adolescents on school property to 6 percent (3).

■ Not all violence-related behavior involves weapons. In 1999, 27 percent of female students and 44 percent of male students were involved in one or more physical fights (4). Reduction in physical fighting among adolescents is a Healthy People 2010 critical adolescent objective (3).

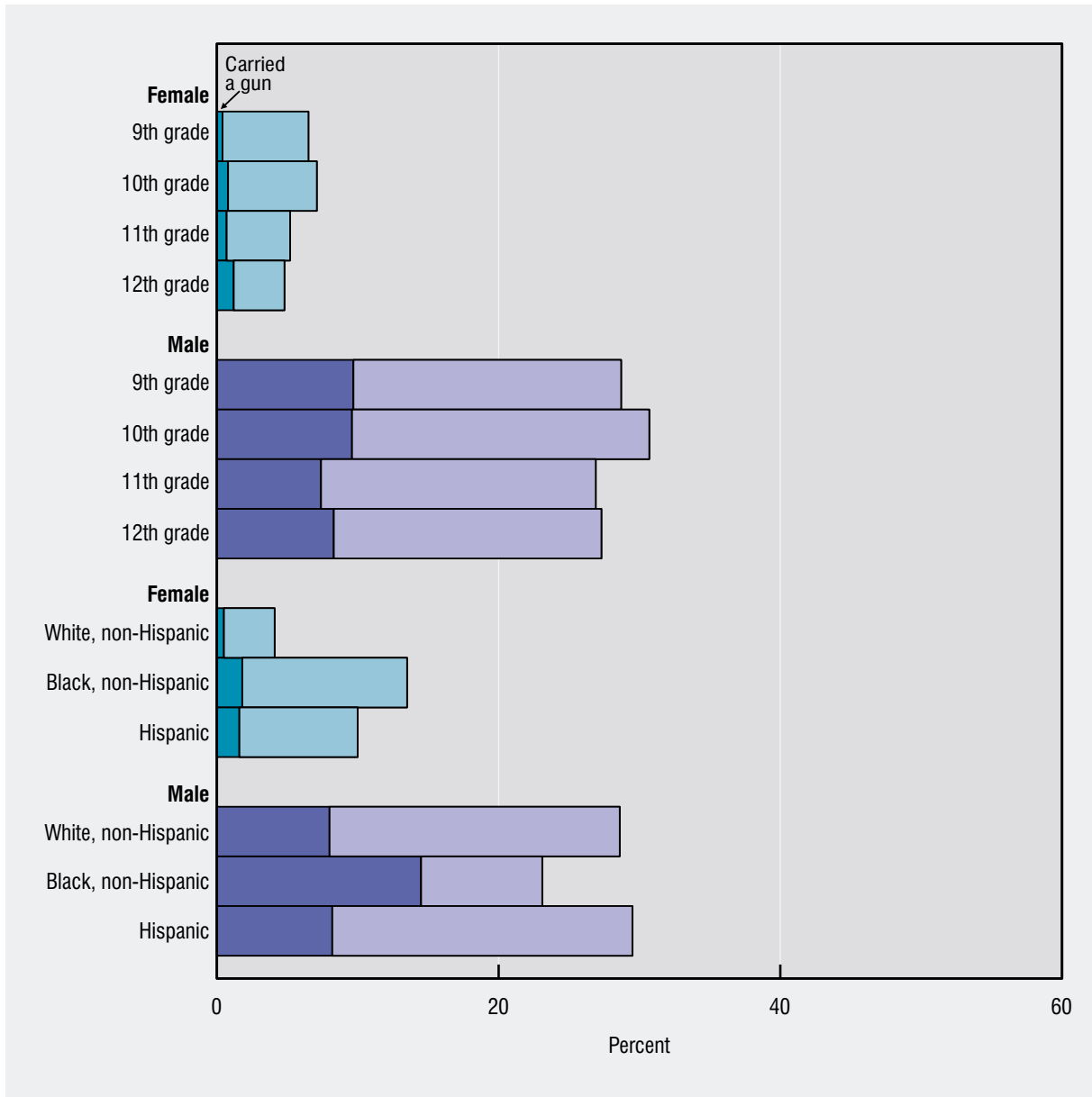
■ Between 1991 and 1999 the percent of students who carried a weapon decreased by 35 percent (26 percent in 1991, 17 percent in 1999). In 1999 high school students were also less likely to engage in physical fights or to be injured in physical fights than students in 1991 (5).

■ In 1996, 5 percent of adolescents 14–17 years of age were not enrolled in school. These adolescents were more likely than their in-school peers to engage in violence-related behavior (6).

### References

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Figure 29. Weapon carrying in the past 30 days among students in grades 9–12, by sex, grade level, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, 1999



NOTES: Weapons include a gun, knife, or club. See Technical Notes for survey methods. See Data Table for data points graphed.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).